

REMARKS:

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner allowed claims 1, 3-17 and 19-24 and rejected claim 18. Claim 18 is amended herein. No new matter is presented. Thus, claims 1 and 3-24 are pending and under consideration. The rejections are traversed below.

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Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned to discuss claim 18, if necessary, to expedite prosecution of the application.

ALLOWED CLAIMS:

At item 3 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner indicated claims 1, 3-17 and 19-24 as allowed.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a):

Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Publication No. 2002/0015200 (Jennings) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,995,254 (Koga).

Jennings and Koga, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest monitoring a transmission line where "a fault and an exact location of the fault is monitored using the examination signal with the second wavelength for indicating said exact location of whether the fault occurred in the transmission line, the terminal, or the host apparatus is provided" and "a unit formed of passive elements operable without a power supply" performing the dividing and the inserting operations, as recited in claim 18.

Instead, Jennings is limited to recording the time of occurrence of the degradation and magnitude of the degradation condition in the optical links and routing the optical signal of $\lambda 3$ from the customer equipment to a receiver (see, paragraphs 18, 19 and Fig. 2).

Koga is directed to maintaining multiplexed signal lights having wavelengths of $\lambda 1$ and $\lambda 2$ until receipt of the same via receiving sections (see, FIG. 2 and corresponding text), and combining light signals with different wavelengths for improving the signal noise ratio of a monitor signal.

It is respectfully submitted that claim 18 is patentably distinguishable over Jennings and Koga.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

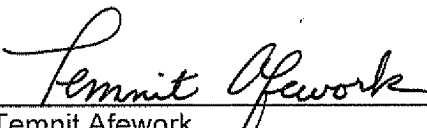
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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